

Wazzan meets detainees' relatives

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan Saturday received a group of a dozen women, mostly Palestinians, seeking news of relatives detained by the Lebanese army in a sweep of west Beirut last month. Mr. Wazzan had agreed to meet the women, who also included Lebanese leftists, after they demonstrated outside his office earlier this week. The women said later Mr. Wazzan had said he would try to help speed up the interrogation of detainees. Official sources said the Prime Minister promised he would try to have the number of people interrogating the detainees increased so that detention periods could be shortened. The Lebanese army rounded up hundreds of men, including many Palestinians, and uncovered large arms caches when they took control of west Beirut after the evacuation of Palestinian commandos.

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Hussein to visit Japan in December

TOKYO (R) — King Hussein will make a four-day visit to Japan early next month for talks with Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, a foreign ministry spokesman said Saturday. The spokesman said King Hussein would fly to Tokyo on Dec. 9 after visiting the Soviet Union and China. The Jordanian Monarch would have an audience with Emperor Hirohito, he said.

Ceausescu arrives in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu arrived in Kuwait Saturday for talks with the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, and other leaders of the Gulf state. Mr. Ceausescu was expected to discuss relations between the two countries and the Middle East situation, official sources said. The Romanian president, due to leave on Monday, was on his way home after a week-long tour of Southeast Asia. Kuwait is the only Gulf state to have diplomatic relations with Eastern Europe and Mr. Ceausescu made his first visit here three years ago, while Sheikh Jaber visited Romania in September last year during a tour of Eastern Europe. Sheikh Jaber has urged fellow members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Saudi Arabia, to establish ties with the eastern bloc to balance strong links with the West.

Maneka challenges Mrs. Gandhi in state elections

NEW DELHI (R) — Maneka Gandhi, rebel daughter-in-law of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Saturday took another step towards open political warfare with the Indian premier by announcing her fledgling party would contest two state elections in January. Maneka, 26, who has been attacking the way the government is run in speeches across the country, is leader of the Sanjay Vichar Manch (Sanjay Ideas Organisation). She has vowed to turn the group, formed to promote the ideas of her late husband, Mrs. Gandhi's younger son, into a formal political party. On Saturday she said the group would contest assembly elections in the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh on Jan. 15.

Daily Telegraph's print workers call off strike

LONDON (R) — Print workers at the Daily Telegraph agreed Saturday to end a strike that has halted London production of the right-wing newspaper for 10 days. The strike, opposed by the printers' own union, began in protest at company plans to close one of its bank of printing presses to save money in the face of mounting losses. General Manager Hugh Lawson said representatives of the 450 strikers had agreed the machine could be withdrawn in exchange for a larger share of the savings than previously offered. On Saturday afternoon the printworkers were due to start producing the sister paper, the Sunday Telegraph, which was also prevented from publishing last week because of the strike. The Daily Telegraph, which normally sells 1.4 million copies a day, countered the strike by increasing production in the northern city of Manchester and 900,000 copies printed there Friday night were delivered throughout the country Saturday morning.

Elleemann-Jensen arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Denmark's foreign minister, acting president of the European Community's Foreign Ministers Council, arrived here Saturday for talks with Israeli leaders on Middle East problems. Israeli Foreign Ministry officials said Uffe Elleemann-Jensen would discuss President Reagan's peace plan, Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and the revival of talks on Palestinian autonomy. Mr. Elleemann-Jensen, who is also President of the European Council of Ministers, is visiting Israel as part of the European Community's drive for a mediating role in the Middle East.

Arafat arrives for talks

RAMTHA (Petra) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday that his current visit to

Jordan aims at resuming a dialogue with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials on Jordanian-Palestinian brotherly relations, and to take part in the meetings of the PLO Higher Council for Education, Culture and Sciences which are due to open here Sunday.

Mr. Arafat was speaking upon arrival at the border post of Ramtha from Syria on his way to Amman at the head of an official PLO delegation.

Mr. Arafat underlined the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian close ties which, he said, "are bound to achieve common national goals". We have arrived at the most important thing, that is a unity of hearts, and this is far stronger than written words, Mr. Arafat said.

Referring to the Palestine Central Council meetings which ended in Damascus Friday, Mr. Arafat said that they were important and were held in a constructive, democratic atmosphere. "We have arr-

ived at positive results and have worked out a comprehensive plan of action for the coming stage prior to the Palestine National Council meeting," Mr. Arafat explained.

He said it would please him to see the council holding its meetings in Amman.

In reply to a question about rumours casting doubts on his leadership, he said that "this leadership came into being by the will of the Palestinian people and it is this people that has the first and final word in this matter."

Mr. Arafat and the PLO delegation were welcomed here by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Hassan Ibrahim who said

that that the meeting between Mr. Arafat and King Hussein is a true expression of the Jordanian and Palestinian people's aspirations, their cohesion and close cooperation towards recovering the rights of the Palestinian people in its homeland and the right to determine its future under PLO leadership.

The PLO delegation was also met by the Foreign Ministry's secretary-general, Irbid Governor and local officials as well as National Consultative Council members. Also at hand to meet the PLO delegation were the director of the PLO office in Amman, the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan and members of the Palestine National Council living in Jordan.

The delegation members

Mr. Arafat is accompanied by Mr. Khalil Al Wazir, deputy commander of PLO armed forces. Hani Al Hassan, Mr. Arafat's political adviser, Mr. Yasser Abed Rabbo, director of the PLO's culture and information department. Mr. Hamed Abu Sitta, PLO executive committee member, and Mr. Mamoud Nofal, member of the PLO higher military council.

King Hussein of Jordan Saturday confers with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Nadwa Palace in Amman. A.P. photo

Abu Odeh: PLO response to U.S. plan under study

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh said Saturday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) response to the Reagan peace plan is now being studied by Jordan and would be discussed by His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during talks in Amman. Mr. Arafat arrived in Jordan from Syria on Saturday after attending lengthy PLO meetings in Damascus.

A statement issued Friday in the

Syrian capital at the end of a meeting of the PLO Central Council criticised the Reagan plan for not envisaging an independent Palestinian state but did not reject it.

In answering a question on the Jordanian reaction to the PLO statement, Mr. Abu Odeh told the Jordan Times: "Jordan is studying the PLO response to the Reagan plan" as the topic will be discussed by His Majesty the King and the PLO chairman during their talks in Amman."

King Hussein and Mr. Arafat conferred at Al Nadwa Palace on Saturday evening.

King confers with Arafat

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. special envoy Philip Habib held a meeting at Al Nadwa Palace in Amman Saturday. They discussed the latest Middle East developments, peace initiatives and cooperation of various concerned parties for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the Jordan News Agency, Petra reported.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Chief of the Royal Court Ahmad Al Lawzi; Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker; Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh; Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qusem and Jordan ambassador to the U.S. Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

The meeting was also attended by U.S. ambassador to Jordan Richard Viers and two U.S. State Department experts in Arab-Israeli affairs Richard Fairbanks and Wat Cleverius.

The party later had lunch with King Hussein at noon.

Mr. Habib and his two assistants arrived here Friday for the talks. According to U.S. embassy sources here the talks did cover recent developments in the Middle East and peace efforts for the region.

Arab mission puts off visit to London

an independent Palestinian state.

The sources said Britain had refused to accept PLO representative as a member of the committee. It is understood the decision to postpone the visit was conveyed to ambassadors of the six Arab states on the committee by Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hamed Boucetta Friday night.

In London, the Foreign Office said Saturday the Arab League had told Britain the mission would not visit London because of British plans for the reception of a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

A Foreign Office spokesman said the British government, which has always rejected direct top-level contact with the PLO, had put forward proposals under which all members of the delegation could be received in London. He did not disclose at what level.

The league had rejected this proposal, he said.

"We have had indications that they are not coming," the spokesman said. "We hope these indications are only a first reaction. We would greatly regret the cancellation of this visit."

Arab diplomatic sources said in London Friday that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had made clear she was not prepared to see a PLO representative in the delegation. The sources said it was pointless to talk about the Arab League's peace plan without the PLO which, as the voice of the Palestinians was the key to peace in the Middle East.

The British position, restated by Mr. Pym on Tuesday, is that it would be inappropriate to see the PLO until it renounces violence and recognises Israel's right to exist.

When the last Arab League delegation visited Britain in July, it included the PLO's foreign affairs spokesman, Farouk Kaddoumi.

The delegation saw Deputy Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd but Mr. Kaddoumi departed before it called on Mrs. Thatcher.

The Foreign Office said the Arab League had asked Britain formally six days ago if it could include a PLO delegate and the British government had considered the request very seriously, putting its plan to the members of the mission Friday.

The British position, restated by Mr. Pym on Tuesday, is that it would be inappropriate to see the PLO until it renounces violence and recognises Israel's right to exist.

The official was commenting on remarks made on Thursday to Reuters in Ankara by Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen.

Mr. Turkmen said the militarisation of Greece's Aegean Islands and exploration rights on the Aegean seabed were central issues that had to be settled for a lasting improvement in Greek-Turkish relations.

But the Greek official said military installations on the island of Lemnos were perfectly legitimate under Greece's NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) obligations.

He did not comment on the seabed issue.

Lemnos was the subject of a dispute between Greece and its two countries are nominal NATO allies but divided over a string of bilateral issues. Their relations have deteriorated sharply this month, effectively ending the moratorium on provocative statements and actions agreed in July.

On Tuesday Greece accused Turkey of violating Greek airspace during military exercises and cancelled a meeting between the two countries' foreign ministers, scheduled for next month.

Turkey denied violating Greek airspace and said nothing had happened to justify cancelling the meeting.

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, who also holds the defence portfolio, says he plans to raise the Lemnos issue at a forthcoming meeting of NATO defence ministers.

Greece rejects Turkish statements on Lemnos

ATHENS (R) — A senior Greek official rejected statements by Turkey that military installations on Greece's Aegean Islands close to the Turkish coast were an obstacle to normal relations between the two countries.

"We have not fortified the islands. What we have is a very limited number of military men to exercise the right of self-defence while on the east coast of Turkey there is a fleet of 79 landing craft that can carry three divisions," he said.

The official was commenting on remarks made on Thursday to Reuters in Ankara by Turkish Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen.

Mr. Turkmen said the militarisation of Greece's Aegean Islands and exploration rights on the Aegean seabed were central issues that had to be settled for a lasting improvement in Greek-Turkish relations.

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Uruguay faces financial hardships and on Friday the government announced the peso would float against the dollar. A big devaluation was expected when foreign exchanges open on Monday.

The Colorado and Blanco par-

Uruguay's return to democracy expected

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Opponents of Uruguay's military rulers forecast a big turn-out Sunday for internal party elections seen as an opportunity to demonstrate public support for a quick return to democratic government.

Although the elections are only for the 500 places in each party's congress, they are seen as a major step towards civilian government after nine years of rigid military rule.

The congress will elect party leaders and candidates for the 1984 presidential elections.

Sunday's elections are being closely supervised by the armed forces who ended representative government in 1973 during a tough crackdown on left-wing subversion.

They have authorised Sunday's elections after a humiliating defeat in a 1980 plebiscite on a revised constitution which would

have given them a permanent say in Uruguay's politics.

But they have allowed only the country's two main centrist parties, the Colorados (Reds) and Blancos (Whites) — and the small Roman Catholic Civic Union Party to take part in the election.

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The Colorado and Blanco par-

ties, who usually alternated in power under civilian rule, are wracked by internal divisions. But opinion polls show anti-military factions dominate both.

A spokesman for the Blanco Party's centre-left faction said it was essential that progressive, democratic groups won Sunday's elections, because congress members would chose leaders to negotiate with the military on constitutional reforms for the 1984 elections.

Government opponents have complained that the military have tried to reduce the turn-out on Sunday.

Government-sponsored broadsheets have told electors that voting is not compulsory, as it is in presidential elections, and sporting events and entertainment have not been cancelled as is usual on important election days.

PEKING (R) — China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), Saturday began group discussion of a new draft constitution which would limit the mandates of the country's leaders.

The draft, due to be passed during the 15-day annual session, will restore the post of state chairman, meaning that China will appoint a head of state next year for the first time in nearly 15 years.

It stipulates that the chairman, premier and other leaders may hold office for a maximum of two five-year terms, in an attempt to end the old system under which some Chinese officials clung to power until their death.

This clause means Premier Zhao Ziyang will in theory have to step down in 1990.

The NPC was opened Friday by its chairman, now the closest equivalent to a head of state, 85-year-old Marshal Ye Jianying. A state chairman is not expected to be named until next year.

The constitution marks a further stage in the gradual process of dismantling the Mao Tsetung heritage following his death in 1976 and the coming to power of Deng Xiaoping.

Set up under Mao as the basic form of government in the countryside, the People's Commune will under the new constitution be stripped of its governmental powers and downgraded to a form of economic organisation.

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Hussein, Habib discuss Mideast

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The meeting was also attended by U.S. ambassador to Jordan Richard Viers and two U.S. State Department experts in Arab-Israeli affairs Richard Fairbanks and Wat Cleverius.

The party later had lunch with King Hussein at noon.

Mr. Habib and his two assistants arrived here Friday for the talks. According to U.S. embassy sources here the talks did cover recent developments in the Middle East and peace efforts for the region.

See in file

HOME NEWS

Japanese company clinches deal to install car telephones in Amman



Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben (second from left) signs the agreement with the director of C. Itoh, (second from right) at Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) headquarters Saturday.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese company C.Itoh Saturday signed a JD 10 million agreement with the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) to install telephones in vehicles in the Amman area.

The C. Itoh director and Minister of Communications Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben signed the agreement at the TCC headquarters in Amman.

According to TCC Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail, the first stage of the project will now be implemented to make

available 2000 lines which will be expanded to 10,000 later.

The project includes the establishment of a central radio telephone station in Amman which will include an electronic telephone exchange provided with a special computer. The station is to be linked to six other smaller stations in Zarqa, Salt, Marj Al Hamam, Umm Al Amad, Ashrafiyah and Sweileh—within a perimeter of 50 to 60 kilometres—Mr. Ismail said.

Apart from installing these equi-

pments and telephones in automobiles, the project is also expected to help promote the work of the early warning system installed by the Civil Defence Directorate since the radio telephones will speed up contact between the civil defence and various enterprises, he said.

According to Mr. Ismail, in the Amman area, dia telephones in cars will also help businessmen, government members, and doctors by providing speedy communications.

Jordan's exports increase

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's exports in the first half of this year registered an increase of 21 per cent over figures released for the same period of 1981, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Department of Statistics.

It said that the exports between January and June 1982 amounted to JD 114 million whereas exports in the first half of 1981 were JD 86 million. The main importers of Jordan's products were Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Romania, Syria, India, Kuwait and Libya.

According to the bulletin, the main exported items were phosphates, vegetables, fruit, home appliances, plastic products, medicines and cigarettes.

11-day seminar to study aspects of food industry

AMMAN (Petra) — An 11-day seminar on the role of food industries and controlling the quality of food opened at the headquarters of the Amman-based Arab Organisation of Standardisation and Metrology (AOSEM).

Participants from Arab member countries will hear lectures and review reports connected with the role and importance of specifications, basic concepts in controlling the quality of food and several working papers presented by participant countries.

Also to be discussed is the role of laboratories in the application of food specifications and controlling foodstuffs to protect the consumers. The participants will be taken on visits to a number of food industries around the country to acquaint themselves with

their functions.

According to the AOSEM's Assistant Director Adnan Awni, food industries rank among the main industries in the Arab World and therefore the seminar is important because it will help raise the standard of technicians employed in these industries.

Engineers and technicians from North and South Yemen, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Jordan will attend.

RSS to hold roads seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-week training course for road technicians in the Arab World will open at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) on Dec. 4.

Taking part in the course will be delegates from eight Arab countries who will have theoretical and practical work designed to raise their skills.

Engineers and technicians from North and South Yemen, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Jordan will attend.

Jordan Society steps up '82 activities

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mr. Carl F. Stover, the director of the Jordan Society based in U.S., arrived Saturday in Amman on a twelve-day visit. "I came to carry on discussions held from late August to early Sept. 1982 on development programmes in Jordan," Mr. Stover told the Jordan Times.

The Jordan Society which was established in Aug. 1982 with its central office in Washington D.C., is an association of Americans and Jordanians formed to strengthen and achieve mutual understanding between the two peoples.

The aim of the Jordan Society is to broaden the people's knowledge on the cultural aspects of each country. The cultural exchange programmes create awareness on the traditions, history, perspectives, contemporary life and future directions of each country.

The society is an independent, nonprofit, private organisation governed by a self-perpetuating board of trustees.

The director of the society, Mr.

Stover, with the help of the staff, is responsible to carry out its programmes. The Society's principal administrative agent in Jordan is the executive director of the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education.

Mr. Stover is scheduled to meet various people involved in the Society. For a specific planned programme for next year, he will meet Mr. Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister of Information and Publishers of the Jordan Times and the Jerusalem Star; for we plan to bring to Jordan a group of publishers and editors of major newspapers in the U.S. early next year," Mr. Stover said.

He added that they plan to bring mayors from American cities including Mr. George Latimer of St. Paul, the "only American mayor of Arab background, his mother being Lebanese," he said.

Another intended exchange of programmes is to open an exhibition from New York's Museum of the American Indian. He said that the director of the museum, Dr. Marianne Force, will arrive in Amman Saturday Dec. 4.

Experts from nine Arab states back Arabisation at Damascus seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Vocational Training Institute Munthir Al Masri has returned to Amman after representing Jordan in the meetings of the Arab experts of the specialised seminar on technical and vocational teachers, concluded in Damascus last Wednesday.

Mr. Masri told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the participants in the seminar discussed the method of preparing the successful programme for vocational teachers and providing field experience in the sites of work and production.

He said the seminar recommended that education should be Arabised in the countries which still use foreign languages and that

concerned Arab organisations and institutions should support Arabisation efforts and work for unifying the terminology of vocational training.

It also recommended that national institutes specialised in training vocational and technical teachers should be established and financed by Arab financing funds and enterprises.

Experts from nine Arab countries and other specialised Arab organisations participated in the seminar which was supervised by the Arab League Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) in cooperation with the Syrian education ministry.

Lebanese painter depicts unsentimental feelings

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the best exhibitions to have been in Amman in recent months is the work of Paul Guiragossian now on show at the Jordan National Gallery. This Lebanese artist, who enjoys great esteem in his native country, has been painting the teeming colourful life of the poor urban community of Beirut for most of the 40 years of his professional life.

Inspired by the companionship of these people, the support they give each other in times of trouble and above all by the love bestowed by mothers onto their children, Guiragossian has found the perfect antidote to war, fear and hatred.

"People talk about doctrines, weapons and destruction" he says "and our protection against these things is the mother and child. In them we see our continuity, our peace and our love."

While the figure is always present in his work, his style crosses the spectrum into the abstract and it is these that are the strength of this present exhibition. In vertical blocks of colour, whose richness and diversity—from teal green to



Paul Guiragossian's "The Wave."

the collection.

Carefully structured, these figurative works lack the spontaneity, the freshness of the artist's abstracts. Replacing these attributes, however, are neat and ordered compositions, where the curve of face, the angle of knee and elbow are echoed by those around and behind, where the figures embrace, play the rabbah with their children while the ubiquitous cat silently crouches at their feet.

It is in these forms, particularly the soft sphere, the rounded cheeks of the child's upturned

face—in "the dawn", that Guiragossian's mastery over brush and media become apparent. His unerring line, bold and authoritative, shows him to be an artist of long-standing confidence who uses his technical abilities with the same ease, familiarity and automatic precision that most of us employ when writing.

And in many quite moving paintings like "the Maternity" Guiragossian portrays quite delicately and without sentimentality that special bond between mother and child.

The exhibition runs until Dec. 2 at the gallery.

Anani, aides lay down groundwork for labour ministers' convention

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Jawad Al Anani chaired the first meeting of the higher preparatory committee for the convention of Arab labour ministers on Saturday.

Dr. Taiseer Abed Al Jaber, said that a delegation from the Arab Labour Office (ALO) in Baghdad will visit Jordan in the beginning of December to discuss the procedures which should be taken to hold the convention and the role of ALO in it.

The higher preparatory committee comprises representatives of the labour, interior and foreign affairs ministries, the Social Security Corporation, the Royal Jordanian Airline, the Civil Aviation Directorate, Vocational Training Institute, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Union of Commercial Chambers and the General Union of Trade Unions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Algerians

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable of sympathy to President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria expressing sympathy for the victims of a football stadium collapse that occurred Friday. At least six people were killed and 46 others were seriously injured when the floor of a football stadium collapsed on spectators in Algiers. In his cable, King Hussein asked that his condolences be conveyed to the Algerian people for the disaster.

TCC introduces new telephone exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — The new International electronic telephone exchange records all telephone calls on a magnetic tape, the dialled number the date and duration of the telephone conversation, according to Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail. He said that the tapes are sent by the TCC at the end of each week to the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to analyse it and issue the telephone bill to the subscribers. Mr. Ismail advised subscribers to refrain from using the exchange until it is officially inaugurated and made fully operational on a commercial basis.

Standardisation chief off to Damascus

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology Secretary General Zafer Al Sawwaf left for Damascus Saturday to take part in a two-day seminar on specifications organised by the Syrian specifications corporation. During the meetings, Dr. Sawwaf will submit two research papers on specifications of factories and national, regional and international organisations and the role of specifications in industrial development.

Irrigation pipes factory nearly complete

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Arab Company for the Production of Drip-Irrigation pipes, Mr. Tariq Al Zubr, said the factory established by the company at the Amman industrial estate near Sahab would start production by the beginning of next year. He added that the unique organisation of the estate, and the facilities and incentives it offers had secured various requirements, which enable the company management to complete construction works and installations in a short period to start production so early. The factory is the first to start production at the Amman Industrial estate.

Meeting studies Jordan's water resources

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting to estimate Jordan's water resources and their development was held at the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) here Saturday. At the meeting chaired by the NRA Vice President Ahmad Dakhaqan, the participants reviewed the authority's achievements, and projects currently being carried out as well as studies on underground water sources in the northern regions of the country where at least seven artesian exploratory wells have been dug. The NRA is currently preparing maps to show the location of these wells and others for topographical and geological features of various regions and is also training technical teams to conduct the work, according to Mr. Dakhaqan.

Acting district governor tours Ruseifeh

RUSEIFEH (Petra) — Acting District Governor of Zarqa Misleh Al Tarawneh Saturday made an inspection tour of Al Ruseifeh and visited factories and toured farms along the Zarqa River. Mr. Tarawneh held talks with the town mayor on health, water and electricity services to the public as well as the municipality's road projects. In his talks, Mr. Tarawneh referred to defence orders issued by the ministers of agriculture and health concerning the irrigation of crops with waste water and the ban on growing crops that are eaten raw. On touring the town, Mr. Tarawneh was briefed on public safety measures and health conditions.

13-day AOAS seminar opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A 13-day seminar on the construction business in the Arab World opened at the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences (AOAS) in Amman Saturday. Addressing delegates from Arab states taking part in the seminar, AOAS Deputy Director Abdul Karim Ya'qoub stressed the importance of the seminar, which he said will brief the participants on the basic concepts of construction management and will promote their skills in this sector. The course supervisor, Mr. Hani Al Awamieh said that the participants will be lectured on manpower planning, financial aspects and other related topics pertaining to the construction business. Each participant will also be submitting a brief working paper on the construction business in his home country and the problems that face its development, Mr. Awamieh said.

'Extra curricular activities important'

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Minister Sa'id Al Tal said Saturday that extra curricular activities in schools is as important as the educational process itself and is not meant as a waste of time. Dr. Tal was speaking at a meeting held at the ministry of education to discuss educational activities. He said that the educational process has also social physical and spiritual dimensions which are all affiliated to the educational process.

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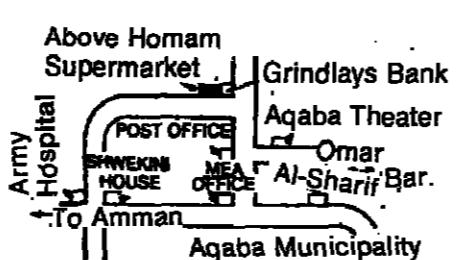
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Add one to the elites

FORMER U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, better known now as "the private citizen who can shed so much light on Middle East prospects after Lebanon," seems to be well on the way of committing himself on the side of his fellow affluent or socialistic elites of European Jews living in Israel against those of Middle Eastern origin, if only to save the "purity" of the Jewish blood.

In an interview with the Economist published recently, Dr. Kissinger advised himself and Americans to encourage Israel, with compassion — may even be affection, to negotiate over the future of the West Bank and Gaza. Tell the Israelis that the incorporation of Gaza and the West Bank into Israel will sooner or later produce an Arab majority that will destroy the essence of the Jewish state, he said. "Annexation — overt or disguised — will sow the seeds of endless crises, one of which will inevitably erupt into conflagration. It is not in the interest of Israel however narrowly conceived," the master geopolitical warned.

This, if you remember, is the same argument that is being advanced today by Dr. Kissinger's like-minded friends in Israel's opposition Labour Party, like its leader today

Shimon Peres and ex-leader Yitzhak Rabin. But it is also the same platform against which Prime Minister Begin's policies of annexation are proving invincible, at least in the eyes of the Israeli public.

We do not really know if Dr. Kissinger's intervention on behalf of his Labour friends would make Israelis change their mind about supporting Begin's expansionist plans in the occupied Arab territories. As a matter of fact we could not care less about who wins the fratricidal conflict because both parties are completely ignoring the fact that there is, in the middle of everything, this Palestinian people with historic and legitimate rights that cannot be ignored by anybody — anymore — if any kind of peace, particularly that between Arabs and Israelis, is to be attained.

The man who can shed so much light on Middle East prospects after Lebanon seems to have forgotten or chose to forget to shed one ray of light on the other side of the Middle East equation. If and when he remembers, he should make it a point to remind his allies in Israel too. Perhaps, with the true picture in mind, they in turn would be able to produce a better show. Begin, all will recall, is the undisputed master of today's Israeli illusions.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Does Mr. Habib have any new suggestions?

U.S. Special Envoy Philip Habib's visit to Jordan is within the framework of his efforts to lay the foundations of a peace process, based on President Reagan's initiative. It is natural that Mr. Habib should get better acquainted with Jordan's attitude towards such a process during his talks with top Jordanian officials. Still, there are facts we would like to remind of in this concern.

Jordan has invariably expressed belief in the presence of several positive aspects in the Reagan initiative, in addition to unclear ones. Moreover, the Arab peace plan is no way contradictory with or a substitute for the U.S. peace plan. The Arabs have expressed sufficient concern, and also a willingness to see the peace process materialise, an issue that leaves the next move to Israel.

Jordan has systematically stated unwillingness to replace the Palestinians in the peace process, a

point recently stressed by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qusem. Moreover, Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh stressed in his talk to Agence France Presse Friday that Jordan will refrain from taking any unilateral part in any peace negotiations with Israel without the consent of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Israel's persistence in pursuing its settlement schemes and its continued stand rejecting the very concept of recognising the PLO, openly demonstrates that the Israelis mean to foil all attempts made for restoring peace in the region, the Reagan initiative included.

Against such a background, does Mr. Habib have any new ideas or ways for laying real foundations that could take all these considerations into account without being thwarted by Israel?

Al Dustour: Would anything be left to be negotiated?

The direct goal of Israeli policies in the occupied territories is to liquidate the national character of the land and the people, in preparation for accomplishing strategic aims among which stands out the complete elimination of the crux of the Middle East conflict, the Palestinian question.

Minister of Information Adnan Abu Odeh stressed this point when he expressed his apprehension that there would be hardly anything to be negotiated if Israel is to go on pursuing its present trends.

The Israel ambition to make such gains are based two elements: Time, which is positively on the Israeli side, and lack of effective Arab solidarity, a question which has been great imp-

ovement since the Fez summit. The Arabs have been able to create a suitable climate for the peace process to accelerate. But the only way to get out of the deadend Israel has led the peace efforts into is an American move that would press Israel into reasserting its commitment to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242. All Arab and American concern for peace would prove to be of no value if Israel is to be allowed to challenge the world public opinion, and the decisions of the world community.

An American move to shake the Israeli military paranoia is needed to block undesired developments in the region.

Unlike other democracies the Bundestag cannot dissolve itself

The constitution proves an obstacle to West Germany

By Geoffrey Atkins

Reuter



President Carstens

BONN — The constitution designed to protect the integrity of the infant West German republic that emerged from the ruins of World War II is, ironically, now proving a major obstacle to the country's democratic commitments.

Christian Democratic (CDU) Chancellor Helmut Kohl has promised new elections for next March 6 to give the electorate a chance to vote on his "back door" conservative coalition. He got into office on Oct. 1 only because the Liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP), which held the balance of power in the West German Bundestag (lower house), abandoned the Social Democratic (SPD) coalition of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and switched allegiance to the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU).

The move, in which a left-of-centre government was replaced by a conservative one without the electorate being consulted, outraged many West German voters. Mr. Kohl's first action was to promise new elections, but calling for early elections under the West German constitution is easier said than done.

Unlike many other dem-

ocracies, the Bundestag cannot dissolve itself. Only President Karl Carstens can do that, and then basically on two conditions: Resignation of the chancellor, a step Mr. Kohl is reported to have ruled out, or positive proof that the government does not have a working majority. But the present government clearly has such a majority in parliament and thus could only be defeated by contriving, through abstentions, to lose a vote of confidence. However, Mr. Carstens reported to be uneasy over such a solution and critics say this would make a mockery out of the democratic process and lower the government's prestige, not only at home but also in the eyes of West Germany's allies.

Several Free Democratic M.P.s are reportedly ready to ask the federal constitutional court to block elections. Cynics say they are more interested in protecting political careers than the constitution. The FDP was sharply criticised for changing sides and has since suffered several defeats in regional elections. Opinion polls predict that in national elections it may not be able to muster the five per cent of the votes required to be represented in parliament, and therefore could risk losing all 49 of

its Bundestag seats.

Reluctance

In the national debate now raging, there is strong support for changing the constitution so that the Bundestag could simply dissolve itself at any time, if two-thirds approved, an idea first promoted by a 1975 parliamentary commission. West German reluctance to tamper with the constitution is understandable, because it was clearly drawn up to try to avoid a repetition of Germany's first abortive fling with democracy — the ill-fated Weimar Republic created after World War I.

This eventually collapsed mainly because there were no constitutional safeguards to stop the constant dissolutions of parliament as no single party or coalition was able to hang on to a majority. As a result, many Germans became disillusioned with democracy and the discredited Weimar Republic led to the rise of Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Party.

Either way, it seems Mr. Kohl cannot escape criticism. If there are no elections on March 6 — and according to opinion polls 70 per

cent of West German voters want them — he will be accused of breaking a solemn promise. And if he calls for a vote of confidence that his party deliberately loses, he will be condemned for undermining parliament.

Mr. Carstens, normally a figurehead with little political power, has emerged as a key element in the debate, but he needs to tread carefully. Although officially neutral, he is a former CDU party leader. If he refused to dissolve parliament on grounds that this would be unconstitutional, he could be accused of doing Mr. Kohl a favour if election conditions did not look good. Government sources say that legal advisers have given the president the go-ahead to dissolve parliament, even if the government artificially loses a vote of no confidence. But most observers agree that the issue would become far more complex if it reached a federal court where both the letter and the spirit of the constitution would have to be interpreted.

Der Spiegel Magazine speculates that there will be no elections next March, arguing that President Carstens is unwilling to argue convincingly that his party does indeed lack a clear majority in parliament.

unhappy if a legal ruling aborted an election. The conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper has also cast doubt on the probability of a March 6 election.

Although at present clear favourite to emerge as the winner — especially now the country's most popular politician ex-chancellor Schmidt has decided not to run as the Social Democratic Candidate — Mr. Kohl came to power as a colourless politician with a bumbling image. Commentators say he may need more time to establish himself with the electorate and point out that by March 6 the still-weakening West German economy will almost certainly be in even worse shape, with well over two million unemployed.

Some optimists are still hoping for a natural way out of the problem. Several Free Democrat M.P.s have recently resigned in protest against the party's behaviour and either gone over to the Social Democrats or become independents.

In the unlikely event that this trend snowballs — and it would take about another 20 defections — Chancellor Kohl might be able to argue convincingly that his party does indeed lack a clear majority in parliament.



Chancellor Kohl

As secretive and hard to predict as ever

Two weeks with Andropov

By John Morrison

Reuter

MOSCOW — Soviet leader Yuri Andropov's first two weeks in office have left foreign Kremlin-watchers certain of only one thing — that the ways of Soviet politics are still as secretive and hard to predict as ever. For foreign diplomats and journalists, keeping track of the subtle shifts in the hierarchy of power is like trying to follow a chess match when only one corner of the board is visible.

Most part-time Kremlinologists are feeling just a little frustrated, for the period since President and Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev died on Nov. 10 has yielded more puzzles than answers. The surviving members of the ruling Politburo acted without delay in naming 68-year-old Mr. Andropov to the most important of Mr. Brezhnev's twin jobs, that of party general secretary. His appointment was approved, apparently without dissent, by the 300-member party Central Committee on Nov. 12. But the nominating speech of his chief rival for the job, Konstantin Chernenko, suggested that there were tensions in the leadership. Mr. Chernenko pointedly referred to the "double, triple importance" of collective leadership, implying that Mr. Andropov should not try to exercise sole power.

Mr. Chernenko, the righthand man of Mr. Brezhnev during his final years in power, remained Mr. Andropov of the importance of "respect for cadres" — a principle of Soviet politics which translates roughly as "no sackings." Analysts of Kremlin politics believe that the arrival of Mr. Andropov in Mr. Brezhnev's job will sooner or later trigger off a much wider succession process.

This will mean the replacement of the limited personnel changes announced at the Central Committee Plenum and a subsequent meeting of the Supreme Soviet showed Mr. Andropov's room for manoeuvre may be restricted. There were widespread forecasts that a member of the Politburo, possibly Mr. Andropov himself, would be elected to the vacant position of chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, or head of state. A head of state can only be elected by a full meeting of the Supreme Soviet, which assembles only twice a year, so the post is likely to stay unfilled for several months.

The Central Committee and Supreme Soviet will assemble again on Dec. 21 to celebrate the USSR's 60th anniversary, but this will be a jubilee occasion with foreign guests present and not a suitable occasion for an election. Soviet officials, asked to explain the unusual delay, said there was "no need to rush" into the app-

ointment of a new chairman because the 40-member presidium was a collective head of state.

But some diplomats here see the absence of a decision as a sign of resistance among other Politburo members to Mr. Andropov taking the presidency so soon.

For the time being, Mr. Andropov has merely moved one step towards the presidency by being elected a member of the presidium. The other key appointment made this week was one which nobody outside the Kremlin walls expected. Gaidar Aliyev, first secretary of the Communist Party in Azerbaijan, was promoted from candidate to full member of the Politburo and made one of two first deputy prime ministers.

Some analysts believe Mr. Aliyev's promotion to the politburo may have been agreed before the death of Mr. Brezhnev. But the move from his home base of Baku to Moscow to take over the number two job in the government appeared to be Mr. Andropov's

political status. As Mr. Brezhnev's chief aide, Mr. Chernenko was towards the end the number two man in the party's day-to-day administrative machine, the Central Committee secretariat.

Now the signs are that he is being pushed into the sidelines though his exact area of responsibility has yet to be defined.

At the Supreme Soviet he was still seated in the front five seats along with Mr. Andropov, Mr. Tikhonov, Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

The political status of Mr. Ustinov in particular seems to have been enhanced since Mr. Brezhnev's death, probably because he gave firm support to Mr. Andropov for the top job. But of this inner core of five Politburo members, all except Mr. Andropov are over 70. The new party leader himself is eight years over the standard Soviet pensionable age, and can hardly expect to have as long at the helm as his predecessor. This may make it more difficult for Mr. Andropov to force the option of retirement on colleagues who are of his own generation.

Corruption

Mr. Aliyev was a strong sup-

porter of Mr. Brezhnev and his flattery of the aged party chief was in a class of its own. But he also appears to be trusted by Mr. Andropov, who headed the KGB security organs for 15 years until May this year. Mr. Andropov may be relying on Mr. Aliyev, known for his efforts to stamp out corruption in Azerbaijan, to pursue the same policies on a nationwide scale.

Some analysts believe the issue of high-level corruption may prove to be a powerful weapon for Mr. Andropov when he gets round to renewing the top levels of the party and government. But for the time being, there are many elements which are still unclear. One question is what role will be left for Mr. Chernenko under the new general secretary. As Mr. Brezhnev's chief aide, Mr. Chernenko was towards the end the number two man in the party's day-to-day administrative machine, the Central Committee secretariat.

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"A secure force keeps others from threatening us... and also increases the prospects of reaching significant arms reductions with the Soviets," Mr. Reagan said.

Some officials say the MX due to become operational in 1986, is not a bargaining chip and the United States plans to deploy the missile even if there is an arms accord.

They say the new missile would be needed to match the accuracy of Soviet missiles and prevent nuclear blackmail by Moscow. But the number of missiles that are ultimately built would be open to negotiation with the Kremlin. The MX, dubbed the "peacekeeper" by Mr. Reagan, faces other uncertainties besides opposition from arms control advocates and members of Congress ranging from liberals to conservatives.

The Pentagon said this week the second-stage motor of an MX rocket ruptured during a recent stress test but declared incident was relatively minor because the test was intended to subject the motor to abnormally heavy strain.

The latest MX deployment plan, known as "dense pack," would cluster 100 missiles in heavily reinforced silos in the midwest state of Wyoming. In theory, the first attacking Soviet warhead would destroy or deflect those following, leaving at least some MXs to retaliate.

The system is intended to fulfil

Mr. Reagan's 1980 campaign pledge to close the "window of vulnerability" of land-based U.S. missiles to a surprise Soviet attack.

Decided advantage

In his televised speech on Monday, Mr. Reagan referred to charts which he said demonstrated Moscow's "decided advantage" in nuclear arms. But critics in Congress and elsewhere say he failed to mention that in terms of the number of warheads held by both sides — some 7,500 each — the nuclear balance is about even.

Mr. Reagan's supporters con-

cede he may face his toughest bat-

tle yet in persuading Congress to ap-

prove the controversial MX scheme.

Congressmen killed off his proposal 13 months ago to install 40 MXs in existing, specially hardened missile silos while the search went on for a better dep-

loyment system.

Congress then said the missiles

would still be too vulnerable and told the president to come back with a permanent plan. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter had pro-

posed a "race track" plan to shunt

200 MX missiles among 4,600

concrete shelters in order to confu-

se the Soviet Union. Mr. Rea-

gan later rejected the plan as too

costly and complex and said it

would leave the missiles vul-

nerable to a first strike.

But he has had problems finding

SPORTS

Liverpool cruises past Tottenham

LONDON (R) — To no-one's great surprise Liverpool cruised past Tottenham 3-0 Saturday to retain a four-point lead at the top of the English soccer first division.

The Londoners have not won a League game at Anfield since 1912 and on the evidence of this latest defeat their fans are not advised to hold their breaths while waiting for that miserable run to end.

Watford, competing in the top flight for the first time in history, continued to enjoy life to the full with a 4-2 win over once-mighty Arsenal at Highbury to remain second on 30 points from 16 games.

But if anyone is to stop Liverpool lifting the title for the sixth time in eight years it could be Brian Clough's new-look Nottingham Forest who have climbed from 13th to third in four weeks and sit one point behind Watford.

Forest, European Champions in 1979 and 1980, thrashed Manchester City 3-0 with two goals from former England striker Gary Birtles.

Manchester United nudged into fourth place above West Ham and Aston Villa on goal difference with a comfortable 3-0 win over Norwich. Dutchman Arnold Muhren shot them ahead after 36

minutes and England captain Bryan Robson struck twice on either side of halftime.

West Ham beat Everton 2-0 but finished the game with 10 men when international defender Alvin Martin was sent off with Everton's Alan Irvine in the 88th minute for fighting.

Villa, the third team on the 28-point mark, won 3-0 at Stoke with two second half goals from England under-21 star Gary Shaw.

But the day belonged to Liverpool. Tottenham were made to look so ponderous by "the Reds" classic football that the 38,000 crowd could be forgiven for thinking they were fielding the same players who triumphed on that famous day 70 years ago.

Only England goalkeeper Ray Clemence kept the scoreline respectable and he emerged blameless on a dismal afternoon for the Londoners.

Again it was the rejuvenated Kenny Dalglish who did the damage. He earned the 20th minute penalty which Phil Neal converted to put Liverpool ahead and the Scottish international crowned a superb display with two goals after the interval.

Like Tottenham, Scunthorpe may have to wait over 70 years for such a great day.

sank Arsenal with a three-goal burst in 14 minutes after falling behind to an early strike from fullback Stewart Robson.

But two goals from winger John Barnes in the 42nd and 56th minutes and one from Kenny Jackett in between put Watford firmly in the driving seat.

Arsenal briefly threatened to stage a comeback when Brian Talbot pulled one back but Robson then had the misfortune to turn the ball past his own goalkeeper in the 86th minute and Watford were home and dry.

Fourth division Scunthorpe, whose greatest claim to fame is that they have had three England captains on their books over the years—Clemence, Kevin Keegan and cricketer Ian Botham—reached another milestone Saturday.

Their top-of-the-table clash with Bury attracted 6,335 spectators, compared to 1,106 last season and the game had to be delayed while the overworked turnstile attendants coped with the unprecedented rush.

Sadly, Scunthorpe lost 1-0 but remained in second place behind their conquerors.

Like Tottenham, Scunthorpe may have to wait over 70 years for such a great day.

U.S. retains Davis Cup

GRENoble, France (R) — France's dream of winning the Davis Tennis Cup for the first time in 50 years turned into a nightmare Saturday when the United States took an unbeatable 3-0 lead.

John McEnroe and Peter Fleming, unbeaten in Davis Cup doubles, wrapped up the defending champions' 28th Davis Cup final victory by defeating Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte 6-3, 6-4, 9-7 in a match lasting just under two-and-a-half hours.

All that the French can hope for now is that they can prevent a whitewash when the reverse singles are played Sunday.

Because the tie has now been decided these will be played on a best-of-three sets basis.

The size of Leconte and Noah's task in keeping France in the hunt soon became apparent as McEnroe, who beat Noah in the opening singles Friday, romped through the first two sets.

Leconte had his serve broken in the first set and Noah was broken in the second. The French pair had few answers to the teamwork and skill of the Americans.

However, Fleming got into trouble in the third set, dropping his serve in the second game and France raced to a 3-0 lead. But then joy was short-lived. Leconte had problems with his serve and the Americans broke back.

New cricket hero rescues Australia

BRISBANE (R) — Australia found a new hero when South African-born Kepler Wessels made a triumphant test cricket debut with an unbeaten century which rescued his adopted country against England here Saturday.

Wessels, a 25-year-old opener who qualified by residence, scored 105 not out as Australia reached 246 for six in reply to England's first innings of 219 all out at the close of the second day of the second test.

Left hander Wessels survived a difficult chance on 15 and spent 45 minutes in the nineties as he held Australia together after the first two wickets tumbled for 11 and they later slumped to 171 for six.

The opener's major support came from captain Greg Chappell, who hit 53, and off spinner Bruce Yardley, 35 not out, while England new ball pair Bob Willis and Ian Botham shared four of the wickets.

Cobb runs out of time against WBC champion Holmes

HOUSTON (R) — In the Lexicon of boxing, Randy (Tex) Cobb, latest victim of World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion Larry Holmes, is a "catcher" whose best defence is his chin—and his sense of humour.

Friday night at the Houston Astrodome Cobb lived up to his reputation—"catching," perhaps 200 punches while landing only a few ineffectual blows as he suffered one of the most one-sided defeats, short of a knockout, in ring history against Holmes.

The former kick-boxer and College Football player, his face cut and bruised, also managed to retain his sense of humour despite the beating.

"I thought I had him. It was just a matter of time, and I ran out of time," Cobb said, obviously in jest, following a woefully inept but game performance before a small crowd of about 15,000 in the 50,000-seat Astrodome.

The 26-year-old Texan demonstrated his durability, but virtually nothing else, as he absorbed a withering assault from Holmes and survived the 15 rounds.

All three judges had Cobb far ahead. Two officials scored the bout 150-135 and the third had it 149-136.

Rocked by scores of solid right-hand smashes to the head, jolted by rapid-fire combinations and peppered by an untold number of snapping left jabs, Cobb somehow managed to remain erect and still kept moving forward to the amazement of Holmes and the crowd.

Rarely has a fighter withstood such an onslaught without going to the canvas. Cobb's courageous performance earned him the distinction of becoming only the second fighter to go the distance against Holmes in 13 of the champion's title defences.

It was so one-sided that two of



Challenger Cobb (left), lands a showering punch to heavyweight champion Larry Holmes during third round action in Houston Friday night. (A.P. wirephoto)

and determined fighter."

In what may have been his next-to-last fight, Holmes notched his 41st consecutive professional victory. It was Cobb's third defeat in 23 fights.

Cobb, ranked fifth by the WBC, was to have earned \$700,000, but was fined \$200,000 for failing to fulfil a contract clause to arrive by Nov. 13. He arrived on Monday.

Holmes, 47.1 kg lighter than his challenger, said earlier this week he planned to make one more title defence after the Cobb fight before retiring.

But after soundly thrashing Cobb, he indicated he might have had a change of heart. "I will continue to box until the desire is no longer with me," he said.

Promoter Don King said Thursday he was convinced he could persuade Holmes to fight the winner of next month's World Boxing Association (WBA) title bout between champion Mike Weaver and undefeated Michael Dokes.

Holmes has made and saved millions of dollars from boxing. The late Rocky Marciano is the only heavyweight champion to have left the ring unbeaten.

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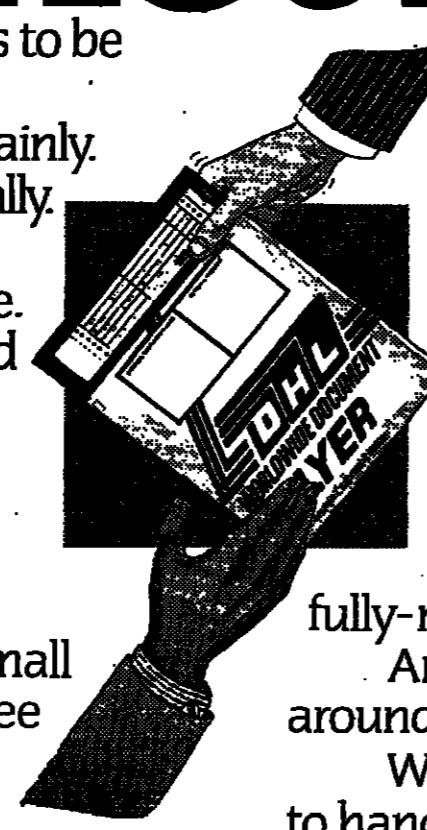
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ECONOMY

Japan may adopt hard line with U.S.

TOKYO (R) — Newly-appointed Japanese minister of international trade Mr. Sadanori Yamanaka indicated Saturday Japan might take a hard line at forthcoming trade talks here with the United States.

His comments came as the international conference in Geneva on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) seemed close to collapse with recession-hit nations failing to agree on lifting trade curbs.

Mr. Yamanaka told reporters after the first meeting of the Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasawa's new cabinet: "It's not good for Japan to be always made a sacrificial victim in trade." Japan should squarely assert its position, he said.

Japan and the United States will hold a trade sub-committee meeting on Dec. 3 and 4 and sub-cabinet level talks on Dec. 6 and 7 in Tokyo. America has been pressing Japan to cut its trade surplus with the U.S.

Mr. Yamanaka said Japan's domestic industries were over-dependent on government relief and should adopt a spirit of self-reliance. He stressed the need for tax cuts to boost consumption and pull Japan out of the recession.

Lloyd's may appoint independent chief

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's of London may appoint an independent chief executive to help restore the battered reputation of the world's largest insurance market, according to insurance industry sources.

The market has recently been wracked by a series of scandals that have shaken faith in the 300-year-old institution and prompted calls for it to be regulated from outside.

Lloyd's said that it had in recent weeks held talks with the Bank of England on "a range of issues." The central bank has no direct responsibility for Lloyd's but it is seen as the guardian of Britain's reputation as a financial centre.

Industry sources said the appointment of an independent chief executive, free from financial ties with Lloyd's, to administer the insurance market's self-regulatory powers, would be one way of sustaining Lloyd's independence against calls for external control.

They said the new council of Lloyd's, an elected body that will supervise the market, would probably discuss appointing an independent chief executive when it meets for the first time in January. The council was set up under legislation to modernise the activities of Lloyd's passed earlier this year.

Since the new law was drawn up, a number of prominent members of Lloyd's have resigned or been suspended as scandal after scandal hit the market.

Morocco to tighten spending in 1983

RABAT (R) — Moroccans were promised Friday that 1983 would be a year of government austerity, when Finance Minister Abdel Latif Jouahri presented a draft budget to parliament.

Saying it would be a difficult year financially, Mr. Jouahri announced a budget for 1983 totalling 20 billion dirhams (\$3 billion), an increase of 12.5 per cent over 1982.

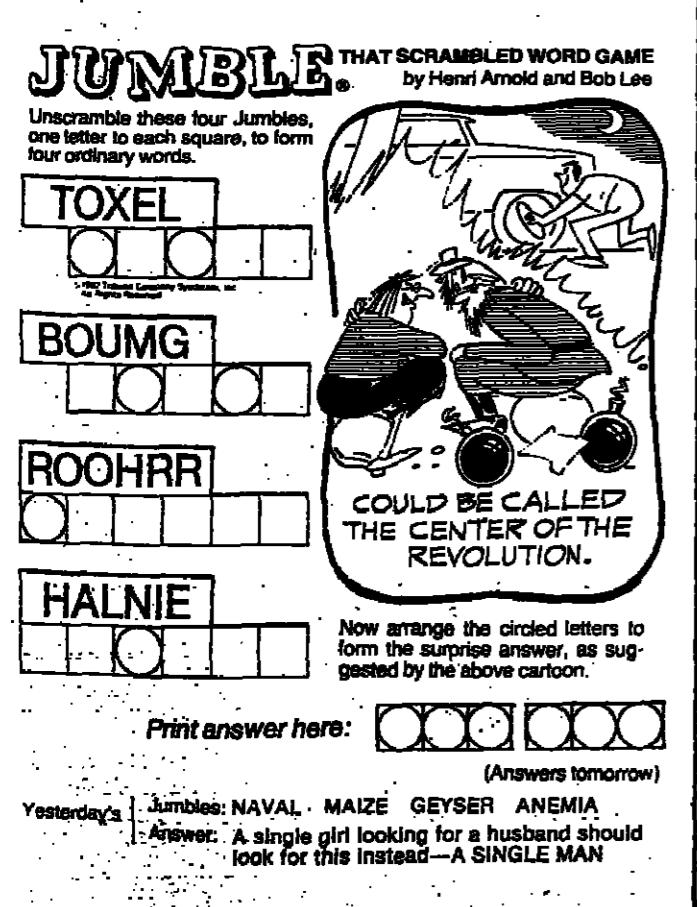
The government would control spending more rigorously, but would maintain subsidies on essentials such as certain foodstuffs and petroleum products, he added.

Public sector debt would rise by 20 per cent next year from 4.7 billion dirhams (\$716 million) to 5.7 billion dirhams (\$858 million).

Mr. Jouahri said the domestic economy improved in 1982, with gross domestic product up seven per cent and prices rising a moderate 10 per cent. But the trade deficit rose 19 per cent to an estimated 11.4 billion dirhams (\$1.7 billion), a record.

Morocco's foreign debt in 1982 is estimated at over 31 billion dirhams (\$4.6 billion).

The country's economic problems stem mainly from a 1981 drought, the high cost of energy imports, a 20 per cent drop in phosphate sales and the financial burden of the war against the Polisario guerrilla front in the Western Sahara.

**Will GATT conference succeed?**

GENEVA (R) — An international trade conference attended by 88 nations seeking to avoid trade war was drawing to a close here Saturday with little sign of substantial agreement.

After three days of largely fruitless negotiations behind the scenes, the ministers of the 10-nation European Community drafted a separate paper outlining their own position on crucial points dividing them from other trading groups at the talks.

As the conference drew towards a close in a series of hectic meetings through the night, the only agreements emerging were to put off bargaining on contentious issues to the future.

The United States and the European Community tentatively agreed to put off their dispute over agricultural subsidies, which the U.S. claims gives European farmers an unfair advantage in farm trade, to a ministerial meeting between the U.S. and the Community in Brussels next month. European delegates said.

The only point on which the conference organised by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) still seemed capable of reaching agreement was trade in services.

Third World countries, which opposed having services such as banking placed under GATT rules on the grounds that this would mainly benefit American corporations, adopted a somewhat more flexible stance at a morning meeting, participants said.

Delegates said a final document due to be put to a plenary session of ministers later Saturday was likely to make a general commitment against protectionism. But views on what this meant in practice continued to diverge as widely as ever.

French officials said they planned to tackle Japan over its alleged obstruction of imports when officials of Japan and the Community meet in Brussels next week.

One of the main hopes held by many governments for the GATT conference was that it would avert the threat of trade war as nations

condemning the conference as a failure and blaming the European Community, unless there were a last-minute shift in positions, Australian diplomats said.

They privately described proceedings here as a shambles.

Australia has joined the U.S. and developing countries in demanding firm action to ensure markets remain fair and open, in particular, the market for farm products.

Colombian Ambassador Felipe Jaramillo, speaking on behalf of a group of developing countries which he chaired, said they remained flexible. But other delegates said India and other Third World nations were still rejecting any deal on services.

An agreement on this point seemed to be the only concrete achievement still within reach of the U.S. delegation, which took a forceful line in the early stages of the conference, diplomats said. One European delegate said the U.S. camp was in disarray after failing to clinch the services accord Friday night.

A working group of nations representing the chief trading areas decided Friday to postpone any attempt to agree on the rules for safeguards, or temporary import controls, delegates said.

Developing countries contend it is unfair to single out any one exporting nation in applying safeguard controls. But the European Community, France in particular, wants to continue selecting individual countries as targets for import controls.

French officials said they planned to tackle Japan over its alleged obstruction of imports when officials of Japan and the Community meet in Brussels next week.

One of the main hopes held by many governments for the GATT conference was that it would avert the threat of trade war as nations

seek to protect their own recession-hit industries.

However the tone of the debate here has remained belligerent, with the U.S. threatening to dump huge farm surpluses on the world market if it failed to get its way on farm subsidies. European Community negotiators promised to retaliate by seeking redress against the U.S. under GATT rules, and Australian diplomats said their government would also immediately take counter measures if the Americans carried out their threat.

The points on which the European Community drew up a paper expressing reservations included the issue of agricultural subsidies, and the commitment in a draft conference text to roll back existing protectionist measures and refrain from such action in the future.

French Foreign Trade Minister Michel Jobert, who has been the driving force behind the Community's tough line and has described the conference as "inopportune," Saturday expressed the hope that it would end "without too obvious a failure."

British and German delegates however have been hoping that the Europeans could help bridge the gap between the U.S. and the Third World over services, so that the American delegation could return home with an achievement

which would ward off protectionist pressures from the U.S. Congress.

One senior European official told journalists that failure of the meeting would result in mutual recriminations among the European Community, the United States and the Third World and cast a dark shadow over world trade in at least the near future.

GATT was founded in 1948 to try to prevent a recurrence of the protectionist trade wars of the 1930s and the aim of the conference—the first at ministerial level since 1973—was to decide on ways of bringing the agency's rules up to date and strengthening its mechanisms to help restrain protectionism.

But the recession and unemployment have steered many members away from GATT's discipline and towards curtailing imports and subsidising exports.

The domestic stakes are high for all sides. U.S. Trade Representative William Brock has long insisted the Geneva meeting must agree to effective studies on trade in services and on food exports to restrain subsidies for it to be a success.

A group of U.S. senators accompanied the American delegation here and emphasised at every opportunity how great the pressure was at home for protectionist measures if the meeting failed.

Thatcher denies trying to force down sterling

EDINBURGH (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher insisted Friday night her government was not deliberately trying to push down the value of the pound to boost exports.

She was speaking at the end of a week in which sterling came under intense pressure against other currencies. After falling to a six-year low of \$1.57, it rallied Friday to \$1.5950 following a rise in base lending rates by major banks Barclays' and the Midland.

Mrs. Thatcher said at a political dinner the government's first duty was the defence of the nation and the second "to give our people the assurances of sound money."

"In the last few days the exchange markets of the world have been passing through a turbulent phase," she said.

The run on the pound began earlier this month after analysts concluded it was overvalued. The decline speeded up with speculation that world oil prices were likely to decline, denting Britain's North Sea oil revenues.

At first the prime minister's advisers said the pound's fall would help exporters as British goods became cheaper against stronger currencies. But dealers said officials later became alarmed at the speed of the slide.

Mrs. Thatcher added: "That is a road that has been tried too often in the past, and all that has happened is that any hopes of gain through cheaper prices for our exports have been swept aside by rising costs at home."

"So those who attribute to us a wish to see our currency devalued by seven per cent or 10 per cent or whatever figure takes their fancy are talking utter nonsense. They simply do not understand the steadfast purpose of this government."

Mrs. Thatcher described as "dangerous and irresponsible notions" the opposition Labour Party's recent call for a sterling devaluation, or a "massive fall in sterling" as she put it, to improve Britain's economy.

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Cyprus plans extra taxes

NICOSIA (R) — The Cyprus government plans to collect an extra 34 million Cyprus pounds (\$68 million) in taxes from its half-million people during 1983, according to budget figures published Friday.

The 259 million pound (\$518 million) budget was tabled in the house of representatives. The debate is expected to be a stormy one.

The most controversial item is an increase of 1.1-million pounds (\$22 million) in income taxes to a total of 47 million pounds (\$94 million).

The fact that 27 million pounds (\$54 million) of this will come from workers' wages and only 20 million (\$40 million) from corporations and self-employed persons is likely to anger increasingly militant unions, analysts said.

Despite the increased taxation and a grant of 14.5 million pounds (\$29 million) from the Greek government, the budget deficit should still reach 37 million pounds (\$74 million).

Tin producers meet Monday

LAGOS (OPECNA) — A draft proposal for the formation of an association of tin producing countries will be considered Monday.

Ministers and delegates from Australia, Bolivia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Zaire are expected to attend the meeting which will be hosted by Nigeria, the fifth largest tin producer.

The six-day meeting will examine the current low price for tin and, problems associated with the marketing of the metal.

While the association is designed to protect the interests of tin producers, Mr. Subroto, Indonesian minister of mines and energy, said earlier this month that it would not challenge the International Tin Council.

In the last few days the exchange markets of the world have been passing through a turbulent phase," she said.

That is a feature of a world of floating rates for currency... we do not have, we cannot have, a rate for sterling which we ourselves can fix regardless. But on one point there should be no shadow of doubt: This government is not in the business of searching for competitiveness by devaluing the currency," she continued.

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WORLD

Polish underground halts protests

WARSAW (R) — Poland's underground opposition leaders have called off anti-government protests planned for Dec. 13, the first anniversary of the military takeover, amid growing signs that martial law will be lifted on that date.

A leaflet made available in Warsaw Saturday, signed by the provisional National Coordinating Committee (TKK) of the underground Solidarity movement, said the protests were being called off because of a new political situation in Poland.

The TKK also said official decisions this month to release Lech Walesa, leader of the Solidarity free trade union, from internment and to announce the date of a visit next year by Pope John Paul II amounted to a proposal of a truce.

Any genuine lasting truce required further concessions from the authorities, including the release of some 1,000 Solidarity internees and reinstatement of people fired for political reasons, it added.

It was the first statement by the TKK, which now has six members, since demonstrations and strikes called last month to protest against the outlawing of the independent Solidarity union drew only a limited public response.

The TKK said Mr. Walesa was still the democratically elected leader of the union, and added: "We hereby declare we are ready to submit ourselves to the decisions of Walesa."

Mr. Walesa, freed on Nov. 14 after 11 months of internment, has remained silent on the activities of the underground and on his own future until he has had time to assess the situation after his long isolation.

The statements were signed by regional underground leaders Zbigniew Bujak of Warsaw, Bogdan Lis of Gdansk, Wladyslaw Hardecki of Krakow, Jozef Pinior of Wroclaw and Janusz Palubicki of Poznan, as well as a former national union leader Eugeniusz Szumiejko.

The TKK said the response to the Nov. 10 protest calls and the conciliatory gestures by the authorities "creates a completely new political situation."

Sofia denies Italian charge

VIENNA (R) — Bulgaria Saturday denied that an airline official arrested in Rome on Thursday had anything to do with the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul last year.

A statement issued in Sofia by the official BTA news agency demanded the immediate release of Serguei Ivanov Antonov and said his arrest was an inadmissible provocation against Bulgaria.

It said allegations of his complicity in the attack on the Pope by Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca were a nonsensical and absurd campaign of slander and lies.

Investigating magistrate Iliario Martella said his enquiries had convinced him that the attack by Agca was carried out in criminal agreement with several accomplices.

Foot under fire from Labour ranks

LONDON (R) — British opposition leader Michael Foot, trailing behind Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the opinion polls, is coming under increasing attack from his own Labour Party ranks.

Party sources said some Labour Members of Parliament were openly complaining about what they considered to be Mr. Foot's abysmal leadership and failure to unite all wings of the party against the ruling Conservatives.

One Labour MP was quoted as saying the 69-year-old former left-wing rebel had one month to deliver the best possible Christmas present — his resignation.

British newspapers said Labour MPs were enraged and disappointed about Mr. Foot's performance since he succeeded James Callaghan as party leader

two years ago.

The latest Gallup poll rated him the most unpopular head of a British political party since World War II with only 16 per cent of the people interviewed thinking he was doing a good job.

The firebrand orator with flowing white hair is being attacked by colleagues on several grounds.

He is accused of mishandling a reshuffle of his chief spokesman in the House of Commons and of showing no flair in the appointments.

Mr. Foot caused some dismay by not promoting, as widely predicted, the popular and up-and-coming politician Neil Kinnock from his education portfolio to employment, the government's most vulnerable front with over three million people jobless.

Some moderate and right-wing

Labour MPs are also incensed by Mr. Foot's apparent reluctance to follow up warnings against Militant Tendency, the disruptive and extreme left-wing group within the party, by expelling its ring-leaders.

But Mr. Foot has his defenders. Jack Dornan, chairman of the parliamentary Labour Party, told a radio interviewer this week: "I have no doubt, whatever the vast majority think that Michael Foot is the man for the job at the moment and will take us into the next general election."

Mr. Foot has publicly discounted suggestions he will quit and with a general election likely next year and no obvious successor in sight, he is confident of remaining leader.

Havana studies subway to ease transport chaos

HAVANA (R) — The city of Havana, plagued by an inadequate and often inefficient transport system, is studying the possibility of building Cuba's first underground railway.

Fernando Perez, the engineer who heads the study, said Soviet specialists were helping to design a rapid transport system for Havana which includes an underground network.

Lack of adequate urban transport has been a chronic problem for the past decade and a source of constant complaints by passengers.

"It is the spirit of machismo that makes them drive that way," one Havana bus driver commented.

"The saving grace," a daily passenger from Havana said, "is the cheap price of public transport here." A bus ride to any point in Havana costs only five centavos (about seven U.S. cents).

Cuba uses buses from a number of nations, including Japan, Hungary, Spain, and Czechoslovakia.

years. He said the number of trips on Havana's buses had jumped from eight million a day to 10.5 million since 1977.

According to a mechanic at one of Havana's bus repair depots, bad driving, a lack of spare parts due to shortage of hard currency, and adequate maintenance are the cause of frequent breakdowns.

Passengers complain constantly of drivers who ignore fixed schedules, exceed the speed limit, brake too abruptly, overshoot the bus stops and negotiate bends like Grand Prix drivers.

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Weinberger to reassure NATO about scope and timing of U.S. nuclear plan

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger will reassure NATO allies in Brussels next week that the U.S. Pershing-II and Cruise missile programmes are on schedule and will not be expanded, a senior defence official said.

The official, who declined to be identified, also said Mr. Weinberger will attempt at North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) nuclear planning and defence ministers meetings to refute the notion that the United States is looking forward to nuclear war.

He was apparently referring to remarks by President Reagan, Mr. Weinberger and others that were interpreted by the allies as implying U.S. plans to fight and win a protracted nuclear war.

Mr. Weinberger will leave Washington on Sunday for the talks, which begin on Tuesday.

The official said test failures and delays on the Pershing missile, 108 of which are to be based in West Germany starting in Dec. 1983, "are the normal development problems" experienced by new weapons.

The Pershing-II exploded on its first test launch last July, and other

tests were delayed or did not meet all their goals.

The official said testing was on schedule for the Cruise missile, 464 of which are to be deployed in West Germany, Britain, Italy, The Netherlands and Belgium under a 1979 NATO decision to modernise medium-range nuclear forces to counter new Soviet SS-20 missiles aimed at Western Europe.

Richard Perle, assistant secretary of defence for international security policy, disputed published reports in Western Europe that Washington wanted to put as many as 216 Pershings in West Germany and speed Cruise missile deployment.

He said a re-load capability for the 108 Pershing-II launchers had been discussed but no decisions were made.

Asked what had sparked such concerns in Europe, Mr. Perle replied: "It doesn't take much to create a furor in West Germany over nuclear issues."

He said plans remained as they were in 1979 — to deploy 108 Pershings along with associated spares, which he described as parts without nuclear warheads that would not be operable weapons.

Ismat Sadat denies fraud

CAIRO (R) — The brother of the late President Anwar Sadat denied charges of massive fraud Saturday in a case said to be symptomatic of an era of corruption in Egypt.

"I am innocent," 58-year-old Ismat Sadat declared from an iron-railed enclosure in the high court of justice.

"They say I got rich through fraud. If the government can find any of these riches it can keep them."

Mr. Sadat was speaking to reporters and television crews who swarmed round the prisoners' enclosure for an impromptu news conference that brought court proceedings to a temporary halt.

It was the first day of a hearing at which Mr. Sadat sat in the enclosure with three of his sons. Also charged were two of his three wives and 12 other children.

The trial before a special tribunal known as the court of ethics began in some confusion as the presiding judge, Dr. Rifa Al Khafagi, mistook a spectator for Mr. Sadat and ordered him into the dock.

"But I am not Ismat Sadat," the man protested. "I am his brother Talaat."

The case has been blazoned across the Egyptian press for the past two months, with leaks liberally fed from the prosecutor's office. The Sadat family was accused of an extensive series of swindles which netted millions of Egyptian pounds, largely from land and property deals.

Saturday's hearing was called on a technicality to determine whether an order prohibiting Mr. Sadat and his family from leaving the country should remain in force.

The ban was upheld for Mr. Sadat, four of his sons, a daughter and his two wives. The panel of 10 judges decided to lift the order for seven other sons and three daughters.

Pretoria frees 34 mercenaries

PRETORIA (R) — Thirty-four of 42 white mercenaries convicted on hijack charges after an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow Seychelles President Albert Rene last year were released from jail Saturday at a prison department spokesman said.

The 34 men were freed from Johannesburg's Doornkop prison early Saturday after serving four years there.

At the hijack trial in Pietermaritzburg the 34 mercenaries were given five-year prison terms the statutory minimum for the offence — but the judge suspended all but six months of their sentences.

Under South African law, prisoners serving terms of less than two years are eligible for remission of up to one-third of their sentences for good behaviour.

Mercenary leader Col. Mike ("Mad Mike") Hoare was jailed for 10 years and seven others received sentences of one to five years. Their applications for leave to appeal were rejected.

Charges against the men were brought under South African civil aviation laws linked to international anti-hijack agreements. The men were arrested at Durban's Louis Botha airport after commandeering an Air India aircraft in the Seychelles when their coup bid failed.

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand explained why he declined to accept a telephone call from President Reagan shortly before the U.S. leader announced the lifting of sanctions over the Soviet gas pipeline.

U.S. officials said the president tried to reach Mr. Mitterrand on Nov. 13 to resolve French objections to an announcement that there was an agreement among the allies on East-West linked to a U.S. decision to lift the embargo.

Asked why he did not accept Mr. Reagan's call, the French president said: "You don't negotiate a quarter of an hour before an announcement."

France has denied there was any agreement and diplomats said the affair had sharpened differences between the United States and the

Uranium deal smoothens Mitterrand's Indian visit

NEW DELHI (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand started talks with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Saturday after the two countries settled differences over nuclear fuel supplies.

Mr. Mitterrand, who is seeking special commercial and political ties with the developing world, flew in from Egypt for a four-day visit.

In an airport speech, he stressed admiration for India's non-aligned foreign policy and said the two countries were anxious that the world "should escape from the grip of opposing military blocs."

A cloud over Mr. Mitterrand's visit lifted when the two countries announced an agreement, only hours before his arrival, under which France will take over a U.S. contract for uranium supplies to the Tarapur power plant near Bombay.

French insistence on strict safeguards had blocked agreement since Paris offered to take over the 19-year-old contract four months

ago. No details of the accord signed by senior officials have been released.

The United States cut off uranium supplies to India, which has carried out nuclear tests, under a 1978 law banning them to countries that had not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

French officials said they expected the accord to give impetus to other Indian projects in which France was seeking participation.

Trade between the two countries has blossomed since the Mitterrand administration began cultivating India 18 months ago as one of three "pillars" on which to establish a new French presence in the Third World.

In the biggest deal, India ordered 40 Mirage-2000 combat aircraft in October.

Gen. Jacques Mitterrand, the president's brother and head of the state firm Aerospatiale, and Foreign Trade Minister Michel Jobert are in New Delhi seeking further Indian orders.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. police nab errant motorist

FRONT ROYAL, Virginia (R)

A motorist led police on a non-stop 120-kilometre chase and in the process discarded his clothes through the car window and he was stark naked, police said.

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iranian diplomat in Rome defects

ROME (R) — An Iranian diplomat has said he had left his country's embassy here in protest at the policies of Tehran's clerical leadership. Officials at the Iranian embassy confirmed that Hossein Pashang had abandoned his job and apparently left the country in a statement distributed to the press by his friends. Mr. Pashang said he intended to join the Paris-based national resistance council led by Massoud Rajavi, leader of the left-wing People's Mujahideen.

Cheltenham officer found hanged

CHELTENHAM, England (R)

A man who worked at Britain's secret communications headquarters, scene of the country's latest spy scandal, has been found hanged at his home near here, police said.

The dead man, Ernest Brockway, 43, was a technical officer at the government's monitoring base at Cheltenham.

On the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, Mrs. Gandhi said persuasion, not condemnation, was the best way to approach the situation.

Asked if the Soviet presence had threatened India by causing an arms build-up in neighbouring Pakistan, Mrs. Gandhi said:

"That would have happened anyway. Pakistan has simply taken advantage of the situation. It found a pretext, a very good excuse."

Mrs. Gandhi deplores India's huge population

PARIS (R) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said in an interview published here Friday that her government's efforts to develop India were being wrecked by the increasing size of the population.

In the interview, published in the newspaper *Le Monde* on the eve of a visit to India by French President Francois Mitterrand, Mrs. Gandhi said her government was trying to control the population by persuasion and education, although the opposition had accused it of using constraint.

The interview, published in the newspaper *Le Monde* on the eve of a visit to India by French President Francois Mitterrand, was as important as ever although it would have to tackle an image of disunity which may have been caused by the increase in the number of members.

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Why Mitterrand did not take Reagan's phone call

French Socialist government.

Speaking to reporters in this southern Egyptian town, Friday, Mr. Mitterrand said his staff had warned the White House twice on the day of President Reagan's radio announcement that France would not go along with an accord.

Mr. Mitterrand said he had set out France's position in a letter to Mr. Reagan. He said the letter was "a reminder that France... will not accept that the free exercise of her sovereignty be called into play."

Mr. Mitterrand repeated an earlier statement that he was cautiously hopeful of better relations with the Soviet Union under its new leader Yuri Andropov.

Mr. Mitterrand said former French Prime Minister Edgar Faure was about to visit the Soviet Union and had consulted him on the trip.